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THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
25 January 1980

Bill would strengthen U.S spyder web

Washington (News Bureau) — Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan (D-N.Y.) introduced legislation yesterday to improve the nation's intelligence-gathering efforts by removing what President Carter called "unwarranted restraints" on the ability of United States spy agencies to do their jobs.

"It is the KGB, not the CIA, which threatens democracy," said Moynihan, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee. "We offer to the Senate . . . a measure that . . . achieves a proper balance between national requirements and individual protections."

The bill would repeal that section of the law that requires the CIA and other intelligence agencies to inform eight congressional committees in advance of any plans for covert activities outside the realm of strict intelligence collection. Under present law, the Appropriations, Foreign Relations, Armed Services and Intelligence panels of the House and Senate all have a chance to review and object to any planned CIA undertaking.

Agencies hamstrung?

Moynihan's bill would cut the number of review committees to two, the Intelligence committees of the House and Senate, thus reducing the number of legislators and staff members privy to CIA plans. Intelligence officials charge that their agencies have been hamstrung in the past on a wide range of secret projects, from secretly supply-

ing arms to anti-Soviet forces to collecting information in certain ways.

Two other features of Moynihan's bill would sharply limit the amount of material in intelligence agency files subject to Freedom of Information Act disclosure and would make it a crime for a person with access to classified information to disclose the name of an intelligence operative.

Moynihan said his bill is only part of what is needed "in the reconstruction of our intelligence community." Between 1977 and 1978, the Senate Intelligence Committee, in cooperation with Vice President Mondale and his staff, developed wide ranging legislation to clearly define the intelligence agencies' roles. This legislation is aimed at providing formal charters for the agencies, but has languished in committee for nearly a year.

President's request

In his State of the Union message Wednesday night, Carter told Congress, "We need quick passage of a new charter to define clearly the legal authority and accountability of our intelligence agencies. While guaranteeing that abuses will not recur, we need to remove unwarranted restraints on our ability to collect intelligence and to tighten our controls on sensitive intelligence information."

The Senate's 18-month investigation of abuses by the CIA and other government intelligence units, starting in 1975, led to the imposition of a variety of restraints on the intelligence establishment.